

ON TO HUCHOW!

A CITY OF
100,000
PEOPLE AND
METHODISM
WITHOUT
A CHURCH

BOARD OF MISSIONS, M. E. CHURCH
SOUTH, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

On to Huchow!

BY W. R. LAMBUTH.

In the center of the tea and silk district of the Kiangsu Province lies the walled city of Huchow. It has a population of over 100,000 people, including its suburbs, and is beautiful for situation, resting as it does within a network of canals and situated not many miles from the great lake. Located in this province, with its thirty million people, with canals ramifying everywhere, with villages and hamlets dotting the plains, in addition to the numberless and picturesque farmhouses, we have a situation pleasing to the eye and stirring to the heart and imagination.

The Huchow District is one over which Rev. Thomas A. Hearn, of Arkansas, has been presiding elder for several years. He reports this whole section of country wide open to the gospel. Wherever the missionary goes with tracts and gospels in his hands they are purchased with avidity. Sometimes the people fairly press each other into the water, as the missionary or his

helper stands on the bow of the boat and offers these for sale and tells them the story of the gospel.

It was in the bounds of this same district, and not far from the foot of the mountains, that the writer on one occasion baptized seven or eight candidates one morning, when one of the number, a man of some thirty years of age, arrested the proceedings for a moment. Thrusting his left hand into his flowing robe, he brought out a number of books wrapped in a cloth which he had used as a necromancer or soothsayer. "These," said he, "I must put in your hands before they can be placed upon my head. I have deceived and led my people into the deepest darkness of superstition, and now that I myself have come into the light I must surrender these books and charms which belong to my unworthy trade." He was baptized, having surrendered his livelihood, and, though unused to hard labor, went into the field, and from that day not only toiled for an honest living but exercised his influence to the utmost in bringing his own people to Christ.

It is in a district with such possibilities as this that we need to build a church. Our

congregation under Rev. J. L. Hendry, the missionary in charge of the work within the city, is worshiping in a dark, filthy chapel in an unwholesome neighborhood. Bishop Ward returns from a recent trip below saying that the congregation have a church building without walls. The total amount is \$3,500. We own the site of a good eligible one. The Church Extension Board has appropriated \$1,000. And friends of the Temple have contributed \$1,000 more.

At the recent session of the Mississ. River Conference the laymen present responded heartily to furnish the necessary funds. It is to be hoped that a large part of the amount can be secured and turned over to us in the next sixty days, or by March 30, that the order may be sent to China to begin the work of our trustees. Until we not, in the light of the foregoing, can raise the rallying cry in the Wabash River Conference: "On to Lijiang!" Sing with our Lord and Master, and go forward we will be ready to meet the responsibilities brought upon us by the change which has attended the work of our missionaries and go forward.